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**NEWS RELEASE**

# Judd Gregg

United States Senator for New Hampshire  
201 Russell Building  
Washington DC

Contact: Andrea Wuebker/Laena Fallon  
202-224-3324  
<http://gregg.senate.gov/>



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## **GREGG: DOC FIX IS A \$300 BILLON HEALTH CARE REFORM GIMMICK**

Washington—U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee and senior member of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, today commented on the failed attempt of the Senate Majority Leadership to bring an unpaid-for Medicare reimbursement payment bill to the Senate floor outside of the larger health care reform debate. The vote on cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 1776, Senator Stabenow's (D-MI) "Doc Fix" bill failed 47-53, with 60 votes needed to invoke cloture.

Senator Gregg commented, "Last week, the deficit for this past fiscal year rang in at about \$1.4 trillion. This week, the Democrats want to pile even more debt onto future generations with an unpaid for \$300 billion physician reimbursement bill, or 'Doc Fix.' In the past, we always have done this Doc Fix without increasing the deficit, but now the majority wants to pass the bill to our children and grandchildren. This sort of budget gimmickry not only spills more red ink, but it essentially enables the liberal Congressional leadership to further spend more taxpayer dollars that we don't really have for comprehensive health reform legislation. I am happy that the Senate stood up today for taxpayers and said no to such tactics, and I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues on responsible ways to address Medicare reimbursement for physicians."

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